

REMARKS

Claims 8, 42 and 43 currently appear in this application. The Office Action of January 1, 2005, has been carefully studied. These claims define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103 of 35 U.S.C., and therefore should be allowed. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration, entry of the present amendment, and formal allowance of the claims.

Claims 8, 42 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 8 has been amended to recite that the amounts are effective for transfecting a target cell at a site of vascularization. Claim 8 has now been amended to recite a target cell, so that there is sufficient antecedent basis for the recitation in claim 42.

Claims 8, 42 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement and as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 8, and thus dependent claims 42 and 43, has been amended to

recite that the composition encompasses a specific functional substance having a heparin-II-binding domain of fibronectin.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. In claim 8 as amended, the functional substance having heparin-II-binding domain of fibronectin is recited to be CH-296. CH-296 is also called RetroNectin (see, for example, page 1, line 20 of the specification as filed) and is specifically described in the specification as stated by the Examiner.

Claim 8 is now directed to a composition for transfecting a target cell at a site of vascularization in vivo which contains a retrovirus, CH-296 and human umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVECs). The effectiveness of the combination of a retrovirus, CH-296 (RetroNectin) and HUVECs is demonstrated in Example 4. Furthermore, it is demonstrated in Example 5 that HUVECs can be used as a vehicle for transfecting a gene to a site of vascularization. Thus, the herein claimed invention is fully supported by the description of the specification.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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